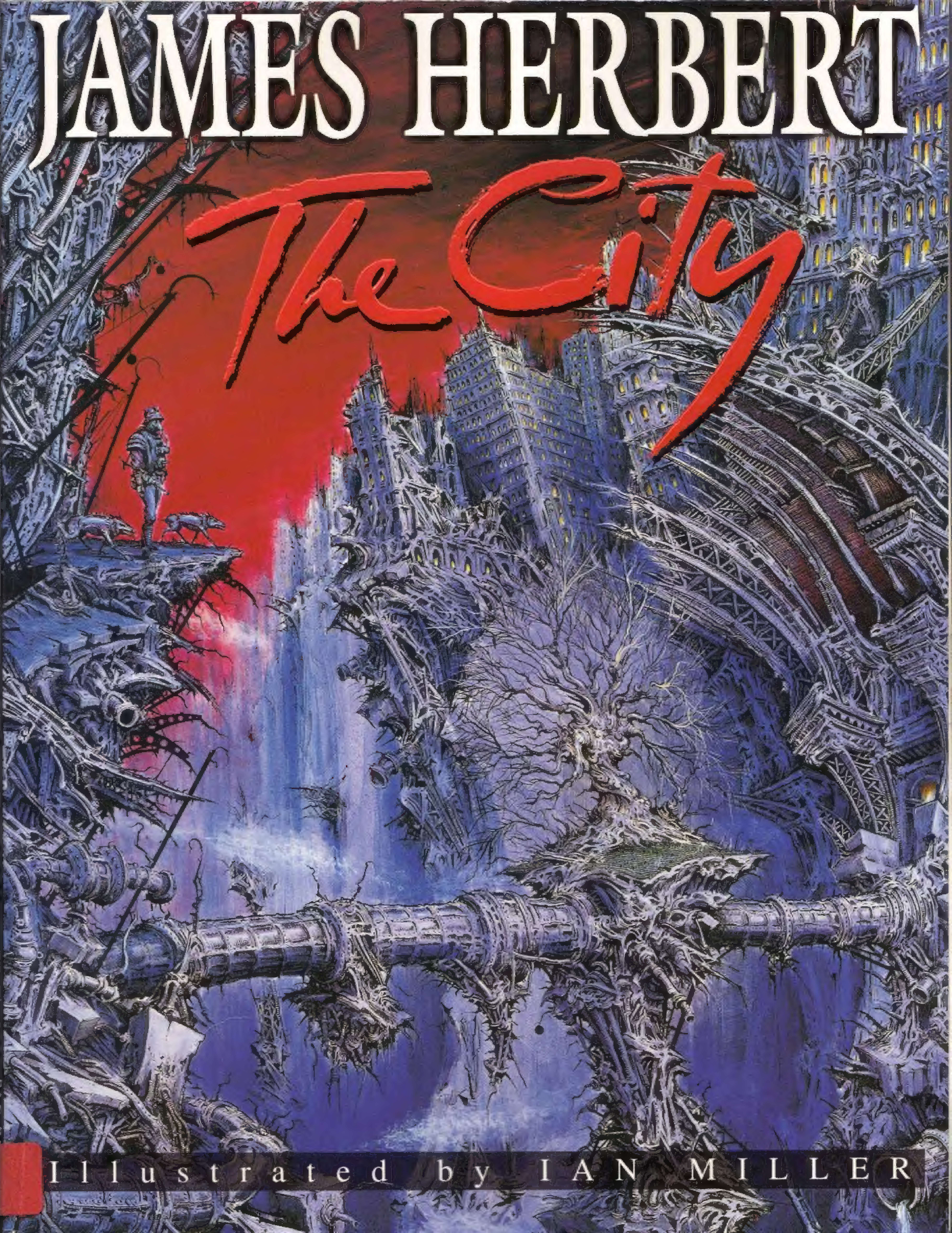
# JAMES HERBERT

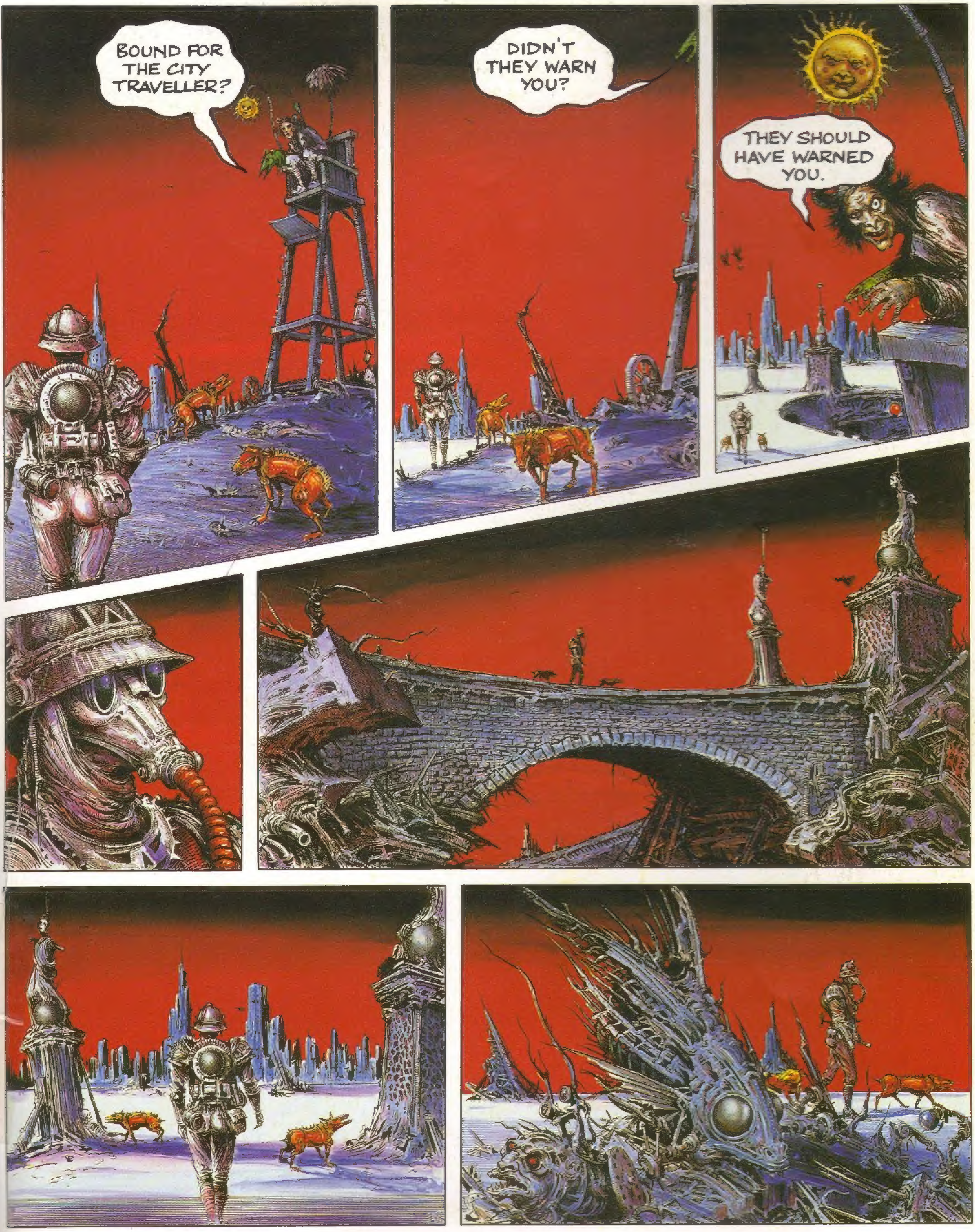
# The City

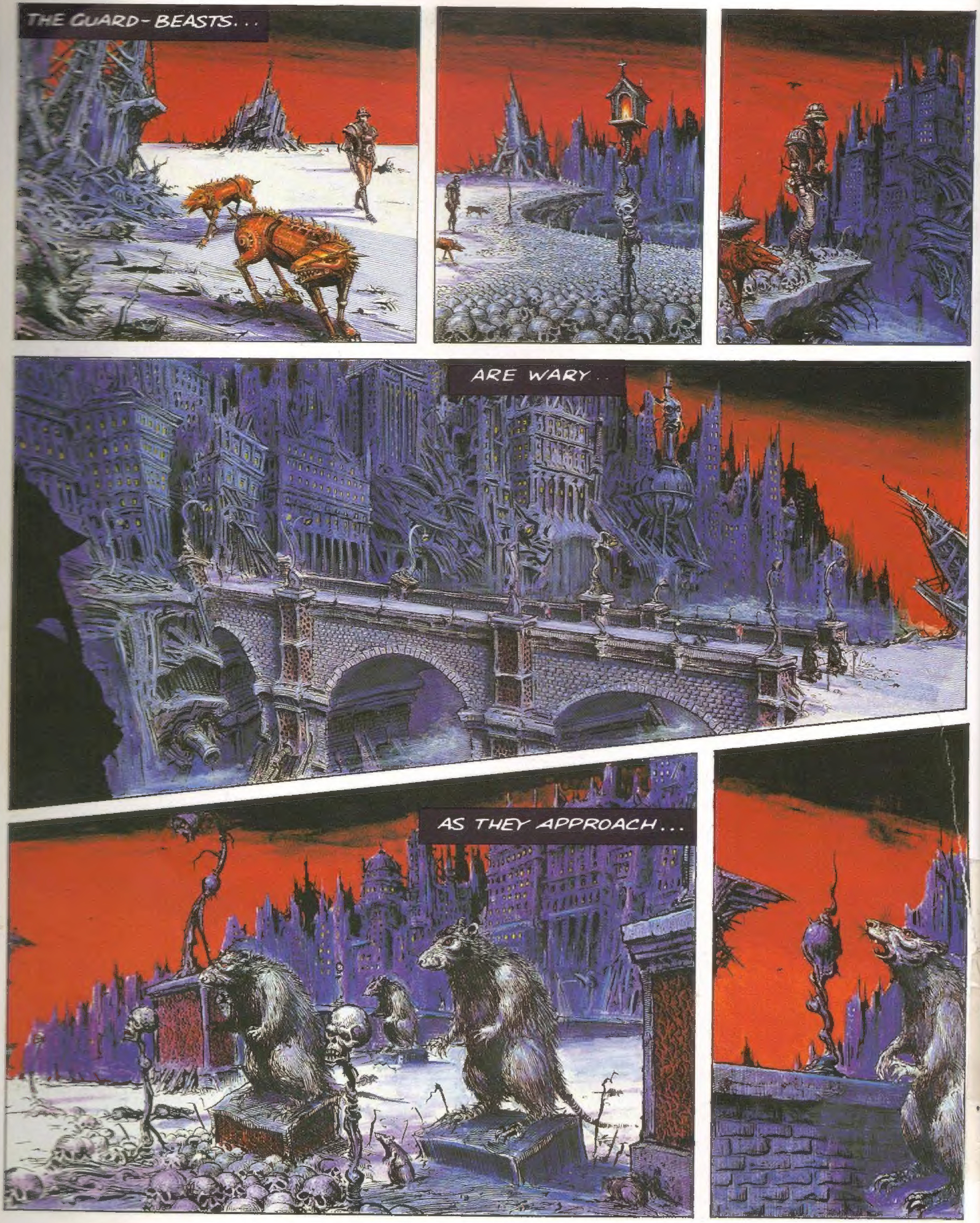


Illustrated by IAN MILLER

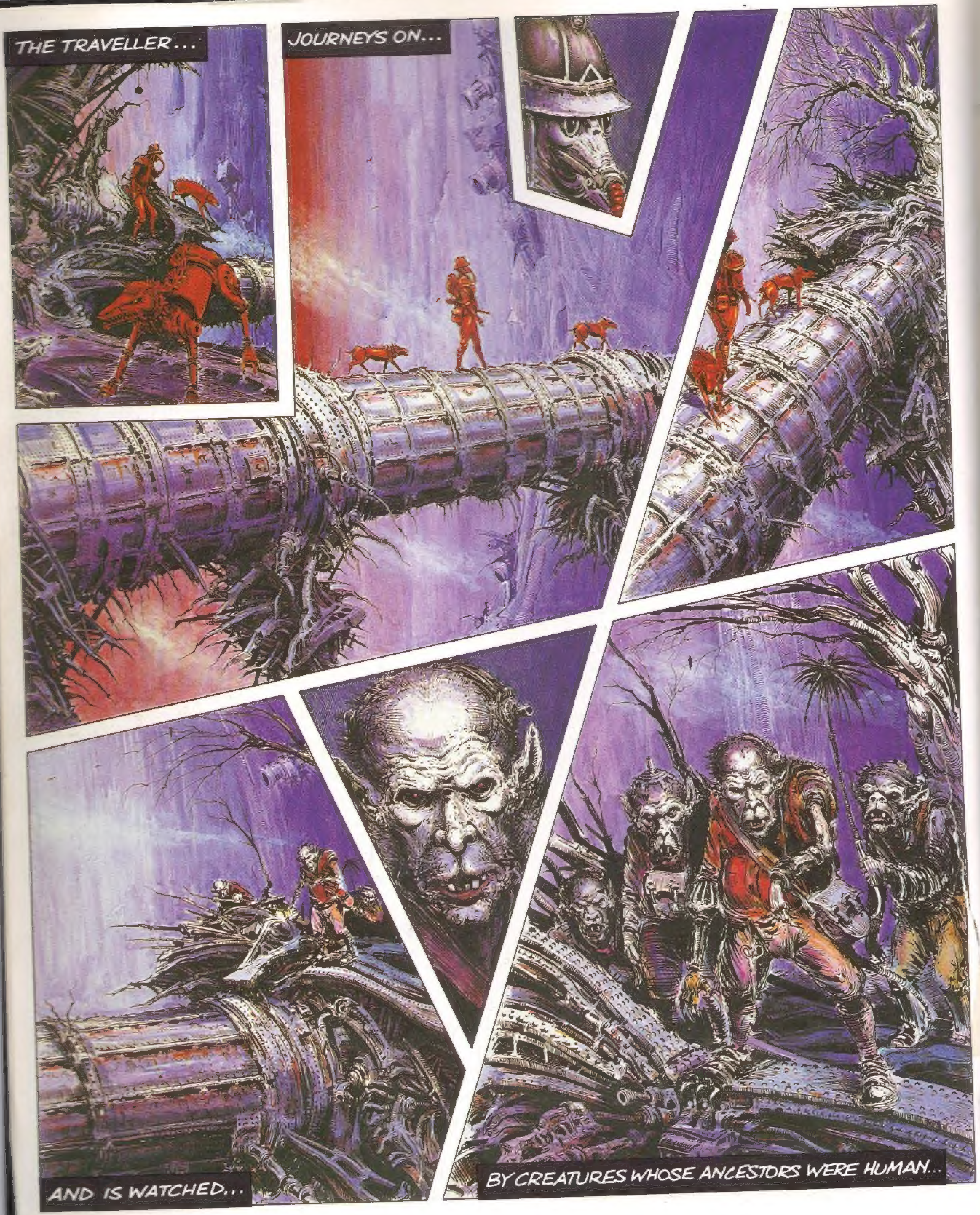
THERE IS NO HELP FROM THOSE WHO RETURN FROM...
THE CITY...
DIDN'T THEY...
AAAAA
TELL YOU THAT?
AA
AAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAHHHHHHHHHHHH
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH
SQUEEEE!!
MY LOVELY...

DAWN...
EH?
Grrrrrr...


BOUND FOR THE CITY TRAVELLER?
DIDN'T THEY WARN YOU?
THEY SHOULD HAVE WARNED YOU.


THE GUARD-BEASTS...
ARE WARY...
AS THEY APPROACH...

THE CITY...
OR WHAT IS LEFT OF IT...


THE TRAVELLER...
JOURNEYS ON...
AND IS WATCHED...
BY CREATURES WHOSE ANCESTORS WERE HUMAN...

EEERRRRGGGGGROUUGHHHHOWWWGRO
WHH!!!
S-S-T-O-P
GIVE.
GIVE ALLLL...
AHHHH
GGGROWWL
KKK!!!!!!!
THWOOO

OOOOMPHHHH!!!
THE MUTANT CREATURES ATTACK...
EEEEEK
EEEEEEEEEK
THWOOMPHH!!

THOOOMPH
THOOOMPH
THOOMPH
AAGHH!!
THE MUTANT CREATURES ARE DEAD... OR GONE...
EEEE
EEEEKKKK
N-NO NO NO...
P-PLEASE LET ME L-LIVE
NO...
P-PLEASE NO

L-LET ME ....
LIVE!!!
NOOOOOOOOAAAAHHHHHH!!!
TIME TO MOVE ON

THROUGH THE CITY
MOVING AMONG...
THE STRANGE...
THE PITIFUL
GIVE..?
THE BIZARRE
HI, BOY.

YOU'RE A LONG TIME COMING PAL...
A PARTISAN...
BUT WE'RE READY...
AN ALLY...
THEY TALK...
HOODWLL
CATCH YA LATER!
IF THEY DON'T CATCH YOU FIRST
THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...
THROUGH THE LABYRINTH.
WATCHING.

WATCHED
BY THOSE LEFT BEHIND...
THOSE WHO HAVE KNOWN NO OTHER LIFE...
THE MUTANTS,
THE DEGENERATES,
THE FEEBLE...
THE INSANE

THE RATS,
AND ONE IN PARTICULAR,
WHOSE SINGLE RED EYE GLEAMS,
AND INCISORS BARE,
AS IT STALKS THE TRAVELLER.
GIMME!
SPLAT!
GRRR..
OH SHIT..

HELL'S METROPOLIS
WHERE THE VERMIN REIGN

AND MAN IS SERVANT
TO THE BEAST
THE STALKER STALKED
THE RATS BEGIN TO GATHER

NICE DAY FOR IT.
NICE DOG TOO...
A LITTLE RUSTY MAYBE.
ONWARDS
AND
FOLLOWED.
THROUGH A DOMAIN.

CONTROLLED BY THE NIGHTMARE
AND NEVER ALONE

WITH ALWAYS...
A FRESH PERVERSION
WAITING TO POUNCE...
YAP-YAP
GRRR
SNIIIKK!
SPLIIISH!!
YAP!
YAP! YAP!

YAP-YAP
A BUS STATION.

AND CREATURES
GATHER
IN THE SHADOWS
AN OLD ORDER REMEMBERED
WHAT TIME DO WE LEAVE?
THROUGH MADNESS

A QUIET VOICE...
HEY, TINMAN
A FRIENDLY WARNING...
DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT YOU GOT COMPANY.
EEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

THOOOD!
EEK!!
GRRRRR
SNARL
SNARL

TIME AGAIN...
TO MOVE...
ON
ONE-EYE IS ENRAGED.
THE RATS ATTACK EVERYTHING IN SIGHT.
SPLAT!

AAGHH!!
HELP HELP!!
AAAAGHHHH!

THE TRAVELLER KNOWS HE CANNOT GO BACK...
WHATS GONE IS GONE...
AND THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO...

THOOOD!!
EEEEEEEE
YAP!! YAP!!
DANGER
FROM ALL
EEEEEEEEEEEEEE
SIDES!
GRENADE!

WHOOMP!
HEY...

WHOO! STEADY.
THERE'S A BETTER WAY ACROSS THE CITY...
IF YOU'VE GOT THE NERVE...

SSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
PHTOOFF!!
GET A MOVE ON!
DOWN THERE AND LISTEN...
DON'T STOP FOR ANYONE.
YOU HEAR ME?
'KIN-A!

ONE EYE DIRECTS THE TROOPS...
COME TO DADDY...
ME BEAUTY...
SPLATT!
EEEEEEOWK!!

THE TRAVELLER DESCENDS TO THE LOWER WORLD
AN OLD SUBWAY...
ALWAYS LOOKING BACK
AWARE HE IS STILL PURSUED
HE CLOSES THE GREAT METAL FIREDOOR
UHHH

HE SWITCHES ON HIS HELMET-LIGHT
AND SCOURS THE GLOOMY CAVERN
WHERE THINGS LURK
AND HIDE

AND SLITHER
GRRRRRR

MMMMM
SNIP!
THWOK!
AAAGHH!!
AGH!
AAAH

THOOOD THOOOD!!!
STILL THEY ADVANCE...
THOOOD THOOOD
THOOOOOOD!!

MMMMMOUUHHM
THOOOD!!
THE TRAIN...
OF OBLIVION.
GOING...
NOWHERE...
THOOOD!!!

WHOOOMPH!!
A WALL TO THE RIVER IS BREACHED.
RESPITE
BUT NO REST
THE LONG TREK CONTINUES.

THROUGH...
THE DESOLATE, BROKEN CITY...
ALL THAT REMAINS
AFTER THE HOLOCAUST
HIYA!
BLEAK DAY ISN'T IT?
GOING ANYWHERE SPECIAL?
TAKE THE WEIGHT OFF YOUR METAL.
THAT'S RIGHT
FEELS GOOD TO REST, HUH?

HUNGRY? ME, I'M ALWAYS HUNGRY.
BUT I DON'T MIND SHARING.
S' WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR, RIGHT?
FRESH TWO DAYS AGO!
YEAH, I KNOW A BEAUTY ISN'T HE?
BUT HEY, THE EYE IS IN THE BEHOLDER OF THE BEAUTY, GET WHAT I MEAN ?
THROUGH THE DAY...
ONWARDS...
UNTIL...
A RUINED STREET...
A CERTAIN HOUSE...

SHELLEY?
NOOOOOOOOO
LAURA...

DAISY, DAISY...
GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER, DO...
I'M HALF-CRAZY...
ALL FOR THE LOVE OF YOU...

IT WON'T BE A STYLISH MARRIAGE...
I CAN'T AFFORD A CARRIAGE...
BUT YOU'D LOOK SWEET...
UPON THE SEAT...
OF A BICYCLE...
MADE FOR...

TWO.
SHELLEY?
SHELLEY, IT'S ME. IT'S JON
I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU OUT.
YOU . . . AND LAURA . . .
BUT LAURA'S DEAD. OUR LITTLE GIRL IS DEAD.
IS IT . . . IS IT REALLY YOU?

YES IT'S ME.
YOU'LL TAKE US?
YES
AND... AND THE BABY?
OUR LITTLE GIRL'S GONE. LAURA'S DEAD.
NO, I MEANT THE BABY.
WE'LL...WE'LL TAKE THE BABY...
WHOEVER THE FATHER IS... IT DOESN'T MATTER.
COME ON...
LET ME...
TAKE IT...

AAAAAAHHH!!
NO! NO!
NO!
MY BABEEEEE!!

SPLAT!
MY BABY. MY BABY
MY BABEEE...
I LOVE YOU SHELLEY...
BUT YOU'RE DEAD ALREADY.
BLAM!

KRUMPH!
DUSK...
AND THE TRAVELLER REACHES THE BIG CHURCH...

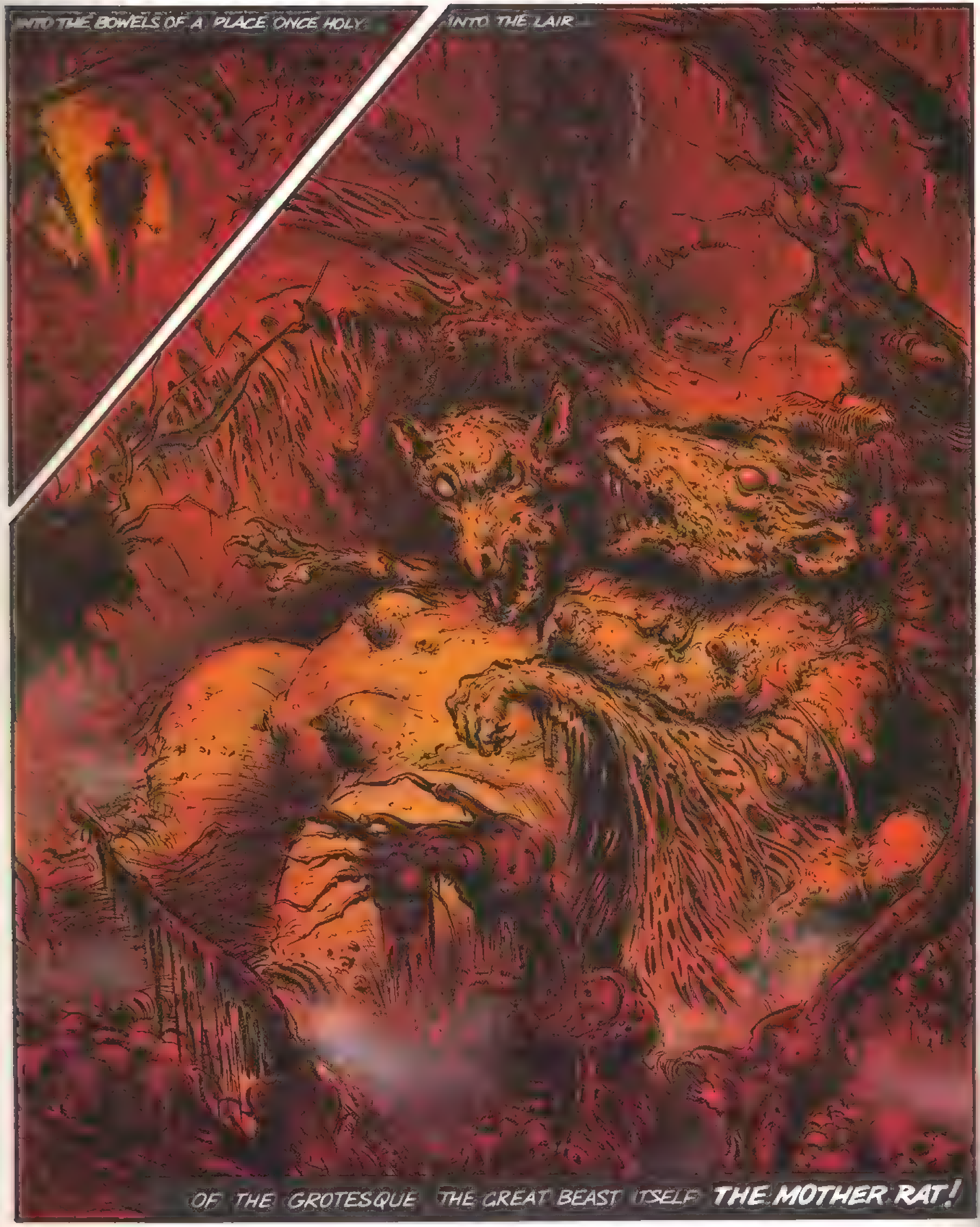
THE ENTRANCE IS GUARDED BY SOLDIER BLACK RATS ...
THE TRAVELLER TAKES TIME TO ASSEMBLE A NEW WEAPON FROM HIS BACK-PACK...
WHOOOOMFF!!

WHOOOOMPF!!
OUT OF JUICE!
KRAAKK!!
KRAAK!
KRAAK!
KRAAK!
WHO?

ANOTHER OF HIS STEALTHY ALLIES.
THE TRAVELLER...
ENTERS THE ANCIENT CHURCH.
WHERE NEWBORN VERMIN...
SQUIRM IN THEIR NESTS...
THROUGH AVENUES...
CONSTRUCTED OF FILTH AND SLIME...

THE TRAVELLER IS CLOSE TO HIS GOAL...
AND HE STOPS...
TO ASSEMBLE...
YET ANOTHER...
WEAPON.

FROM THE INFERNO...
THERE EMERGES...
SEETHING...
HATRED...
HE NEEDS TIME...
TO RECHARGE!
GRRRRRRR
EEEEEAAAAKK!
SNARL! SNAPP!!
SQUEEAALLL!!!
NO!


INTO THE BOWELS OF A PLACE ONCE HOLY
INTO THE LAIR
OF THE GROTESQUE THE GREAT BEAST ITSELF THE MOTHER RAT!

PZZZZZZ
THWOOOOOMMFFF
ROAST IN HELL YOU SICK OBSCENITY!!
EEEEEEEAAAAGH!

THW
OOOOSHHH
EEEEEAAAAK!
YOU WERE A LONG TIME COMIN' TRAVELLER...
BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO MOVE OUT!
THERE'S OUR TRANSPORT. BEEN KEEPIN' IT READY FOR US.

SPLATT!
SILENCE. THE PARTISAN WAITS...
HE HEARS THE CHASE...
RRRRRRRRRRRR
KEEP COMIN' PAL.
TELL 'EM YOU DID GOOD...
AND TELL 'EM WE WERE WAITIN' FOR YOU...
RRROOARRRRRRRMMMM

LIKE PLANNED.
'TIL NEXT TIME TRAVELLER
THWAAAKK!!
KABOOM!!

CRAAK
A NEW DAY...
A RAVAGED DAWN...
THE TRAVELLER LEAVES...
THE CITY BEHIND...
HEH HEH HEH
WHAT'S IT LIKE IN THERE TRAVELLER?

AAAAAAGHHHHAAAGH
THE EN